UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/C.5/47/87
21 January 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
FIFTH COMMITTEE
Agenda item 111

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 14 December 1992 from the Permanent Representatives of Belarus and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Memorandum of the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the Government of Ukraine in connection with the consideration of agenda item 111, "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations", by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (see annex).

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 111.

(Signed) Guennadi N. BURAVKIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Belarus to the United Nations

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: Russian]

MEMORANDUM OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF UKRAINE IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSIDERATION AT THE FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE QUESTION OF THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The report of the Committee on Contributions on the work of its fifty-second session 1/ was submitted for consideration at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. We cannot but draw the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that the recommendations of the Committee were adopted in violation of the Charter principle of the equality of all Member States and, contrary to existing procedure and practice, provide for a discriminatory increase in the assessments of Belarus and Ukraine to the United Nations budget by more than 50 per cent.

The inclusion of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine in the section of the report entitled "Assessment of new Member States" and the subsequent irregular and totally unjustified actions to determine their new financial obligations to the United Nations has caused perplexity.

In this connection, we consider it necessary to draw the attention of the General Assembly to the serious conceptual and methodological departures by the Committee on Contributions from the existing principles and criteria for determining the financial obligations of Member States, which have led to erroneous conclusions with regard to the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine and recommendations which are unacceptable to them.

At the least, it is difficult to accept such "carelessness" when our countries - two of the few countries that almost half a century ago founded the Organization - are mentioned among the new Member States.

No reservations or explanations by the Committee on Contributions with regard to the proposal to revise upward by 1.5 times, starting in 1993, the contributions of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine (from 0.31 to 0.48 per cent and from 1.18 to 1.87 per cent respectively) can be valid since from the very beginning the Committee has not been authorized to take such action.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 11 (A/47/11).

Furthermore, the financial obligations of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine to the United Nations have already been assessed, as determined by the scale of assessments for 1992, 1993 and 1994, which was approved under General Assembly resolution 46/221 of 20 December 1991 on the basis of consensus.

The above-mentioned recommendations of the Committee on Contributions to revise the assessments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine are in fact designed to revise the consensual scale of assessments, which our countries definitely cannot agree to.

In view of what has been stated above, the Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine consider the recommendations of the fifty-second session of the Committee on Contributions to revise the assessments of their countries irregular and totally unfounded and have sent instructions to their delegations at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly to oppose their adoption.

We propose that at the current session of the General Assembly, the scale of assessments adopted at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly should be confirmed, and the assessmerts of the new Member States should be determined in accordance with existing rules and that, prior to further consideration of the scale of assessments, the appropriate consultations should be conducted among the parties concerned in order to ensure its adoption by consensus. Our countries are ready to participate in such consultations.

The Governments of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine hope that the States Members of the United Nations will be sympathetic to the position of our countries concerning the apportionment of contributions to the United Nations budget and will support them in the consideration of this question at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

11 December 1992